Request to return of the remains of Russian Painter

3704. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the Reply to Unstarred Question 1189 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th November, 2000 and state whether Government have taken any final decision with regard to return of the remains of Svetoslov Roerich for reburial in St. Petersburg?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): A request has been received from the Government of the Russian Federation for the return of the remains of Svetoslav Roerich for reburial in St. Petersburg. The martal remains of Svetoslov Roerich lie buried in the Roerich Estate in Bangalore. The Government of Karnataka acquired the estate belonging to the Roerichs in Bangalore on November 21, 1996 through an enactment. The constitutional validity of this act has been questioned and the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka has ordered that *status quo* be maintained in the matter. Matters pertaining to the Roerich Estate in Bangalore are *sub-judice*.

Setting up of a Canadian Consulate in Chandigarh

3705. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canadian Government has sent any proposal to Government for setting up of a Canadian Consulate office in Chandigarh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes, Sir. A request has been received from the Government of Canada for expansion of the Visa Collection Centre in Chandigarh into a full-fledged Consulate.

(b) Government of India had given permission in 1997 to open a